

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518)237-8643

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD. _____
SERIES _____
NEG.NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Kathy Howe DATE: Sept. 1994

YOUR ADDRESS: 133 South Fitzhugh Street TELEPHONE: (716)546-7029
Rochester, NY 14608

ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

* * * * *

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Alfred Sperry House
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN: Greece
3. STREET LOCATION: 520 North Greece Road
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [X]
5. PRESENT OWNER: Raymond & Carmen Chapman ADDRESS: (same) Hilton, NY 14468
6. USE: Original: residence/farm Present: residence
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes [X] No []
Interior accessible: Explain private residence

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard [X] b. stone [X] (fdn.) c. brick [] d. board and batten []
e. cobblestone [] f. shingles [] g. stucco [] other: Asphalt roof shingles.
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints [X]
b. wood frame with light members []
c. masonry load bearing walls []
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent [] b. good [X] c. fair [] d. deteriorated []
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site [X] b. moved [] if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known):
(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"Unlike #358 N. Greece Rd., this house has the advantage of not having asbestos siding. Otherwise, it's not terribly different. The chimney is not original, which is a demerit. All told, this is a 'green.' " P.Malo.

COLOR CODE

Green

14. THREATS TO BUILDING:

- a. none known ☒ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐
f. other: _____

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:

- a. barn ☒ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐
i. landscape features: _____
j. other: dilapidated chicken coop

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):

- a. open land ☒ b. woodland ☐
c. scattered buildings ☒
d. densely built-up ☐ e. commercial ☐
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☒
h. other: Modern church bldg. to the north. Farm fields across street.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1858 (per map) - c. 1864 (per owner)

ARCHITECT: not determined

BUILDER: not determined

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES:

(see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: Agricultural: Farmhouse

11c.

Two brick chimneys with corbelled tops removed.

Window shutters removed.

One-story, gable-roofed frame addition with concrete foundation added at rear (east).

Enclosure of porch at front, northwest side (post 1952). This included the installation of new clapboard siding, a picture window, a new door, and a stone wall.

Large brick chimney added to front-gabled section on west elevation (post 1952).

Picture windows added at first floor on north, south and east elevations (post 1952).

The two original first floor window openings on the west elevation of front-gabled block were replaced by shorter, double-hung wood windows with a slightly different placement due to the chimney which was added between them (post 1952).

One and one-half story, frame barn built in 1977.

17. This vernacular Italianate house is located on a 1.0 acre lot on the east side of North Greece Road in the northwest quadrant of the town. A driveway, modern gambrel-roofed, frame barn, and a dilapidated chicken coop are north of the house. The property has a large back yard with many deciduous trees along the property line. The neighborhood consists primarily of post World War II ranch houses. A modern church is located on the adjacent lot north of this property, with farm fields beyond this to the north. Another historic farmhouse (c. 1830s) with surrounding farm fields is located across the street to the west.

18. Two-story, front-gable-with-wing, vernacular Italianate farmhouse with clapboard siding and a fieldstone foundation. The front-gabled main block is three bays wide with a hipped roof entrance porch in the northern bay. This porch features the original Italianate chamfered wood posts and pilasters. The original front door is paneled with two, round-arched glazed units in the upper part. A large brick chimney, added after

18. continued

1952, dominates the front elevation. The first floor windows on either side of the chimney are modern, six-over-six, double-hung replacements. Historic photographs (attached) reveal that the window openings on the first floor originally lined up vertically with the windows on the second floor. The original first floor windows were tall, floor-to-ceiling, six-over-six, double-hung sash. The front elevation at the second floor retains the three original windows with six-over-six, double-hung sash. The photographs also show that the windows on the house once had shutters. Beneath the overhang of the roof is a narrow frieze band.

Projecting from the front, west, elevation of the side-gabled north wing is the former hipped roof porch which has been enclosed to form part of the kitchen. The original chamfered columns and pilasters are still intact as part of this enclosure. The historic photographs show that a six-over-six, double-hung window and an entrance originally opened out onto this porch.

A one-story, gable-roofed frame addition with a concrete foundation projects from the rear, east, elevation of the house. A hipped roof rear porch with modern wood posts is located on the northeast side of the house.

The non-contributing, gambrel-roofed frame barn (1977) has a concrete block foundation and vertical plywood siding. The contributing chicken coop is a shed-roofed, frame structure.

20. Built c. 1858-1864, this house is architecturally significant in the town of Greece as an example of a vernacular Italianate farmhouse. The house is also historically significant for its association with the Sperry family, early settlers and farmers of North Greece.

Although the house underwent a significant number of changes in the 1950s, it still retains the basic form, massing and some details of a vernacular Italianate farmhouse. While the gable-roofed, ell-plan of this house is vernacular, the overhanging eaves and chamfered porch columns are Italianate in inspiration. The Italianate style belongs to the picturesque movement in architecture of the second half of the nineteenth century. The

20. continued

style was loosely inspired by the rural architecture of northern Italy. Andrew Jackson Downing's pattern books of the 1840s and '50s helped to popularize the style.

The house was once part of a working farm and had a barn, chicken houses, and shed as well as a tenant house (at 510 North Greece Road). A house first appears on this site under the ownership of O. Sperry on the 1858 county map. The 1872 county map shows A.C. Sperry as the owner of two houses on this parcel. Alfred C. Sperry was married to Ida Armstrong. The 1902 county map shows this as an 87.84 acre lot with two houses owned by Alfred C. Sperry Hrs. (heirs?).

(According to Carmen Sharp Chapman, the present owner, the farmhouse across the street at 515 North Greece Road was also built by the Sperry family in the 1830s. 515 North Greece Road was purchased by Mrs. Chapman's parents, the Sharps, in 1947. Mrs. Chapman, who has lived at 520 North Greece Road since 1967, grew up at 515 North Greece Road.)

The property at 520 North Greece Road became the property of Alfred and Ida Sperry's adopted daughter, Winifred, and her husband, Irving Kirk. Winifred Kirk is shown as the owner on the 1924 county map. Irving Kirk is listed as the owner in the 1938 suburban directory.

Winifred (Sperry) Kirk was born on October 18, 1873 and died on April 24, 1952. The following obituary provides many interesting details concerning her life:

**Mrs. Winifred Kirk Dies;
Geology, Farming Expert**

...Mrs. Winifred E. Kirk, ...pursued the study of natural sciences at a time when other women were interested chiefly in domestic science.

Mrs. Kirk died Thursday (Apr. 24, 1952) at the home of a son, Orla Kirk, 140 Rutgers St. She was 79....Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery.

Mrs. Kirk was a student of geology, horticulture and botany. She was an expert horse trainer and a successful farmer. After her husband's death several years ago she managed the family's 86-acre farm at 520

N. Greece Rd., Greece. Throughout her life she added to a fine collection of New York rock specimens which she started while a student at the old Livingston Academy in Livingston Park.

She had often said that the traditional occupations of women did not interest her and she limited her organizational activities to membership in the Parma-Greece Christian Church and the Parma Grange.

Mrs. Kirk was the adopted daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sperry, both of whose families settled here in Rochester's early days and operated flour mills on the Genesee. She was the widow of Irving W. Kirk, farmer and real estate man who was responsible for the settling of much of the Town of Greece....

Mrs. Kirk trained most of the horses bred on the old Sperry farm.

Her son, owner of the Canadian Fur Company, is her only survivor.

Mrs. Chapman noted that Winifred Kirk was also an amateur photographer and some of her photographs included scenes of Greece. Mrs. Chapman added that Mrs. Kirk became a bit of an eccentric and allowed goats, rabbits, and chickens to roam throughout the house.

Mrs. Kirk's son, Orla, continued to own the house after his mother's death and is responsible for many of the modern alterations made to the house after 1952.

21.

Assessment Records. Assessment Office, Town of Greece, NY.

Beers, F.W. *Atlas of Monroe County, New York*. New York: F.W. Beers & Co., 1872.

Brown, P.J. *Gillette's Map of Monroe County, New York*. Philadelphia: Gillette, 1858.

Brown, P.J. *Map of Monroe County, New York*. Addison, NY: A.G. Gillett, Publisher, 1852.

Historic photographs showing 520 North Greece Road. Carmen Chapman, owner.

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21. continued

Interview with Carmen Chapman, owner. August 1994.

Map of Monroe County, N.Y. Philadelphia. PA: G.M. Hopkins,
1924.

"Mrs. Winifred Kirk Dies; Geology, Farming Expert." Obituary
from 1852. (Copy made available by Mrs. Chapman.)

Plat Book of Monroe County, New York. Philadelphia, PA: J.M.
Lathrop & Co., 1902.

Rochester Suburban Directory for the Year 1938. Rochester, NY:
Sampson & Murdock Co., 1937.

Town of Greece Historic Sites Survey
Monroe County, New York



Undated historic photograph of 520 North Greece Road.
(Photograph courtesy of Carmen Chapman.)

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Monroe County, New York



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